



Olympic housing hunt

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Too edgy for music's mainstream

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Dog days for school grad

Failing to use what you learn is a sure-fire way to forget it. For Lucky, a golden retriever and guide school graduate, a city with no regulations for guide dogs could render his years of education useless. The dog has been barred from buses, subways and stores, and his owner says Lucky's training is slipping.

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Photo by Wang Bin



Xinhua Photo

Urumqi fire out after 20 hours

As many as nine fire brigades and 61 fire engines were dispatched to put out a blaze Wednesday evening at the Dehui Hotel in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. As of press time, the fire is reportedly under control. Three armed police were killed and one was injured.

The cause remains under investigation.

New welfare projects for a new year

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Life can't wait for regulations

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Artwork born of disabled minds

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Dining out for musical meals

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Welfare projects for 2008

By Han Manman

The municipal government announced 59 public welfare projects for the year last Friday. Housing assurance, medical care and transportation topped the list. Canine care also made its first appearance on the government's ledger.

Officials began collecting public suggestions and opinions last September and logged nearly 10,000 ideas submitted by telephone hotline, email and letters during the first 20 days. Public concern focused on urban management, housing, employment and social security.

The following are some proposed projects:

Housing

In 2008, the government will

construct and purchase 500,000 square meters of low-rent apartments. As many as 1,400 resident compounds will be renovated for 10,000 households.

Dog raising

The city's financial department will earmark almost 2 million yuan to regulate dog raising. The project will include informational flyers, stray care programs and training.

Community service

Communities will set up household health files and personal health files next year. All the community clinics will provide traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) services. The clinics will offer a greater variety of non-profit medicines to relieve residents' medical burden.

Transportation

Another 1,000 parking spaces will be added along 100 sub-main roads. Some old underground civil defense projects will be refitted to offer another 10,000 parking spaces in some communities. A plan for passenger transportation in the countryside will be implemented to ensure lower transportation fees.

Environment protection

Beijing will aim for 70 percent of next year to have clear skies and air quality at level two or higher. About 50,000 households will be forced to abandon traditional stoves in favor of clean energy for heating.

Medical care

The medical insurance system will expand to cover all

urban residents of working age. Elderly residents without social security will be covered by the old-age pension system by which people ages 90 and over will have senior pensions.

Food

The source-tracking system for food safety will be enlarged to cover 20 butcheries and processing plants, 55 large and medium-sized stores and supermarkets and six agricultural product wholesale markets.

New public conveniences

As many as 50 percent of the public conveniences in old urban bungalow areas in Xicheng, Dongcheng and Chongwen districts will be upgraded, along with those in 11 parks including the Summer Palace and Temple of Heaven.

New monitoring system promises student safety

By Li Fenghua

A new card system which will provide real-time surveillance of primary and middle school students in Chaoyang district may relieve some parents who worry about the safety and attendance of their children.

The one-card solution, which contains basic information of all the registered students in the computer, is already in use in a few of the district's schools.

By the end of the month, 54 primary and middle schools will have the system in place, and it will be available in all district schools by the end of the year, He Jianxiong, Information Center director of the Chaoyang Education Committee, said.

Parents can go to the Beijing Telecommunication Bureau to sign up to receive basic SMS messages about their children's safety and attendance. "Additional messages, such as where the students are, may incur additional fees," the director said.

Important school sites such as dormitories, mess halls, playgrounds, gyms and labs will be monitored. Infra-red alarm devices will be used to track student activities in those rooms. The surveillance system will be connected to the Chaoyang Bureau of Public Security.

School faculty will be able to find out where any registered student is by using an Internet link.

The system was assembled as part of the district's conversion to a new database to record basic information about its registered students.

While most of the parents are satisfied with the monitoring system, some have expressed worry that it could cause a loss of traditional childhood freedoms, He said.

New airport terminal ready for takeoff

By Han Manman

The new No 3 terminal building at Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA), which will serve as the main support building during this year's Olympic Games, has finished construction, a spokesman for the airport said on Saturday.

"The terminal building will enter use in two phases. The first phase is expected to start trial operations on February 29," a BCIA spokesman said. To ensure operations go smoothly, from tomorrow through February 3, BCIA will hold six large-scale rehearsals consisting of 500 to 8,000 participants to test the terminal's boarding, departure and inspection procedures, he said.

Designed by British architect Norman Foster, the building attempts to combine traditional architectural elements with up-to-date technology. Its red columns and muted gold roof are symbolic of Beijing's history of imperial palaces and temples. Its more modern US \$250 million baggage system, made by Sie-

mens AG's China subsidiary, can process 19,000 pieces of luggage per hour.

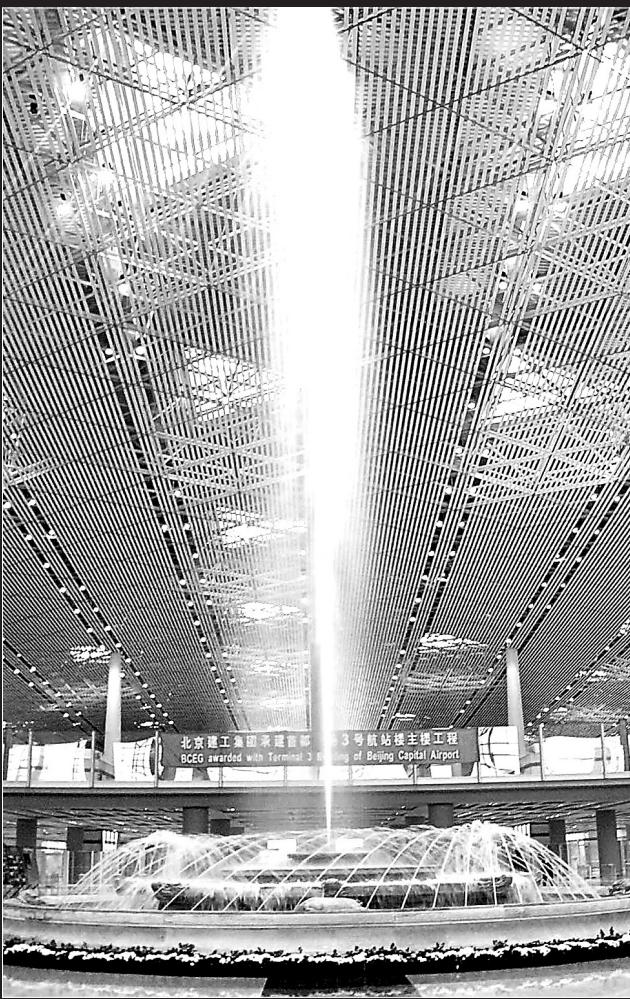
The new building emphasizes passenger experience with a design that includes vast concourses and uses space and natural lighting for a more comfortable experience, the spokesman said.

The 3.8 kilometer long terminal consists of up to five floors with three basement floors. It has 120 departure gates.

Its two prayer rooms for religious passengers are the first in the country's mainland. Automatic shuttles are available to escort passengers throughout the terminal. Each women's washroom also contains a special breastfeeding room that is 10 square meters and has a mirror and a sink.

The new terminal is a centerpiece of the city's Olympic developments and officials hope it will relieve overcrowding in the airport's other two terminals for the next seven years.

Terminal No 3 broke ground on March 28, 2004.



The No3 terminal will help relieve airport congestion.

Photo by Nie Shou

Income tax threshold bumped to 2,000

China's new draft amendment to income tax law may raise the monthly individual income tax threshold from the current 1,600 to 2,000 yuan. If passed, the amendment will take effect on March 1.

Xie Xuren, Minister of Finance, said that the raise could mean a loss of 30 billion yuan in state revenue.

"The threshold increase is within the range of what the country can bear and will relieve the economic burden of the country's medium and low-income earners," Xie said.

The consumer price index (CPI) climbed 6.9 percent in November – the fourth consecutive month that the index was above six percent.

Price increases on various goods have put a heavy burden on the already-burdened average family.

The individual income tax cutoff was raised from 800 yuan per month to 1,600 yuan in 2006 following an investigation into the basic cost of living.

"Over the past two years, the cost of citizens' basic needs has continued to rise. This forced us to readjust the income tax cutoff point," Xie said.

Xie said each worker has an annual consumption expenditure of 19,030 yuan, or 1,586 yuan per month, for food, clothing, accommodations and transportation. Because experts do not forecast an end to the upward trend,

the cutoff point was preemptively set at 2,000 yuan per month.

A recent survey of almost 3,700 people showed that 97 percent of citizens said the current individual income tax cutoff point should be readjusted.

Wang Yijiang, an economic management professor at Tsinghua University, said with the country's fast economic development, the government could afford the tax cut.

The Ministry of Finance predicted the country's financial revenue in 2007 would exceed 5 trillion yuan, up 31 percent from the previous year.

Some Chinese scholars suggested that the tax threshold

could be varied in different regions in line with local economic development.

They said living costs in economically prosperous cities, such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, were high. The tax cutoff point in those cities should be higher, and in economically backward areas, the threshold should be lower.

Still, it is unrealistic for the government to implement different cutoff points for different areas, An Tifu, an economics professor at Remin University, said. It would make talented people in western areas more willing to move to big cities, further widening the regional social and economic gap.

(By Annie Wei)

Brief news

A fourth of netizens blog

The country's blogger population has reached 47 million out of 180 million netizens, 57 percent of whom are women. The survey data came from a poll China Internet Network Information Center conducted in late November.

Online lottery sale banned

No institutions will be allowed to sell lottery tickets over the Internet any more according to a circular issued Wednesday by the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the General Administration of Sports.

Olympic-class food safety

A monitoring center for food safety, established by the Beijing Municipal Food Safety Supervision, will be set up to command a safety network and issue warnings of food risks and handle food-related emergencies during the Olympic Games.

New fuel standards in effect

The city introduced new vehicle fuel standards on Tuesday. Under the new standards, gasoline and diesel sold at all Beijing outlets must meet the new China IV standards, which are equivalent to the European Union's Euro IV standards.

(By Han Manman)

City won't throw guide dogs a bone

By Jackie Zhang

Lucky, the capital's first working guide dog, started his new life in early December with former Paralympic long-jump champion Ping Yali. But the stresses of the city and workers unfriendly to guide dogs are causing Lucky's skills to slip.

The dog was trained at the guide dog training base in Dalian, Liaoning Province. When on duty, Lucky wears a special red coat with a working license issued by the Dalian Public Security Bureau (PSB) and Dalian Disabled Person's Federation.

However, even when Lucky dons his red attire and approaches the situation with professionalism, he can hardly penetrate the stalwart defense of bus drivers and shop attendants who bar him from his task.

Ping said when Lucky first tried to guide her onto the bus, the driver adamantly refused her and said no animals were allowed – even guide dogs. Unwilling to abandon hope in public transport, Ping headed for the subway where she and lucky were again refused.

Today, Lucky no longer has any reaction to buses.

"I think it is because he was refused by the driver. I worry that his skill at guiding me onto buses or into parks and supermarkets will gradually be lost," Ping said.

When it came time to license Lucky as one of the capital's dogs, his name was all but proper. The local PSB forbids large dogs within

the city proper – and training and licensing cannot change the fact he is a golden retriever.

"If this continues, the dog will be unable to use any of the skills he learned in school. He will eventually forget everything," a staff member from the Dalian training base said.

Luo Dan, a teacher from Beijing Union University's special education college said she pitied Lucky.

"Training a guide dog is exceptionally expensive and the selection requirements are strict. Only golden retrievers and Labradors can be trained," she said.

Family descent is also important, she said. If a dog's parents or grandparents are guide dogs, then it will be easier to train.

"The country currently lacks regulations and policies for guide dogs, and there is no national department to identify and license the dogs," Luo said.

The China Association of the Blind submitted a rewrite of the national Law on the Protection of Disabled Persons to the state council, and a section on guide dogs is included, Li Weihong, the association's vice chairman, said.

"Once the law is passed, regulations to enforce the rights of disabled persons with guide dogs will be issued," he said.

Li said that there would be temporary regulations in effect during the Paralympic Games this year to allow the competitors' guide dogs into the city's public areas.



Lucky has been Ping Yili's eye for the last month.

Photo by Wang Bin

Local SOS seeks 'mothers' for orphans

By Jackie Zhang

The first phase of Beijing SOS Village's opening preparations ended last Friday and the new village is slated to open in June.

But before it can assume its task of caring for infants, it needs mothers.

Mothers are the souls of an SOS village, project manager Ding Kaishan said.

"[The mother] cares for the orphans and gives them a home: that is the biggest difference between an SOS village and an orphanage," Ding said. The requirements are correspondingly strict. Mothers-to-be must love children and be able to educate them and manage a family.

All prospective mothers should be between ages 25 and 45, and hold a high school diploma or higher degree. They must not have children of their own. Mothers who work in a village for 20 years will be able to live on a special platform in the village and all their living expenses will be provided by SOS-Kinderdorf International.

Mother recruitment began earlier this week. "We will recruit ten mothers from all over China, then prepare a list of which orphans will live in the village," Ding said.

The village's first phase consists of 15 two-story houses, a training building, an office building and a kindergarten. Each house will be home to eight children and one mother. The first floor includes the mother's room, living room and dining room. Four bedrooms and independent washrooms will be on the second floor for boys and girls respectively.

Based on the requirements of SOS-Kinderdorf International and domestic conditions, eligible orphans must be mentally-stable children aged three to six. The Beijing SOS Village is planning to match 15 families next year.

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BEIJING TODAY Editors: Yu Shengnan, He Jialing, Designer: Zhao Yan

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BEIJING TODAY

Gov to adjust export tariffs again

The Ministry of Finance is announcing big changes to duties for certain categories of imports and exports to curb expansions in high-energy-consuming and polluting sectors.

This year, the government will step up efforts to fulfill promises made when it signed as a World Trade Organization member six years ago.

The export and import duty adjustment, which took effect Tuesday, focuses on several categories:

the most-favored-nation rate of duty, the annual interim duty rate and conventional and preferential tariffs.

Import and export duties have been adjusted annually for the last decade.

The average tariff level is now 9.8 percent, with farm produce hitting 15.2 percent and industrial products at 8.9 percent. The list of items subject to import and export taxes has been expanded to 7,758 items.

In the agricultural sector, the government will continue to fulfill its commitment to the World Trade Organization. It will cut import tariffs on 45 commodities, and will continue to manage tariff quotas for 7 agricultural products, including wheat and cotton.

It will also restrict export of products from polluting industries with high energy consumption. Export taxes on wood pulp, coke, alloy steel, steel billets and some finished steel products will

be raised from 15 to 25 percent. Import tariffs for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel will be slashed from 2 to 1 percent.

A government representative said the tariff adjustments should help ensure domestic supplies and better environmental protection.

There are currently 39 developing countries in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia which have preferential tariffs on their exports bound for China.

(Agencies)

Baidu shares fall on exec's death

By Huang Daoheng

Shares of Baidu.com, the country's most popular Internet search site, fell after news broke of the death of Shawn Wang, its chief financial officer.

Wang died in an accident on Thursday, a company spokesman said Saturday.

A group of senior managers will assume his duties until a successor is named. Under Wang, Baidu's shares soared past US \$400 in the US last month, a 15-fold gain from their initial offering of US \$27.

Baidu is the only Chinese company in the Nasdaq 100 index – the 100 biggest non-financial companies by market value listed on the Nasdaq.

Deutsche Bank open for business

(Reuters) – Deutsche Bank started operations in China on Wednesday through a locally-incorporated unit, a move that gives Germany's biggest lender broader access to the country's US \$2.3 trillion in household savings.

Deutsche Bank's spokesman said the move allowed the company to conduct a broader range of businesses in China, including foreign exchange, and foreign currency-denominated securities other than stocks.

The bank will put its branches and sub-branches under the locally incorporated unit, while retaining a wholesale foreign exchange branch in Shanghai.

Rat attacks South Korea



Sales staff are showing off toy rats and rat-shaped piggy banks at a store in Seoul, South Korea.

This year is also the Year of the Rat for the South Koreans. Rat-themed decorations and toys are hot sellers across the country.

Xinhua/AFP Photo

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The UNICEF greeting card program has a 58-year history that began when a seven-year-old girl in the former Czechoslovakia gave her drawing to UNICEF to say "thank you" for the help she received. Today, UNICEF cards are sold in many countries using designs donated by artists from all over the world.

Most people don't know that 10 percent of UNICEF's worldwide programs are funded by sales of its cards and gifts. And if you or your company sends UNICEF cards/gifts, the recipients may buy the cards next year. That's significant, because the more cards/gifts we sell, the more children we can help. UNICEF cards are printed on recycled paper, and they're great for a variety of occasions: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get Well, Thinking of You, Season's Greetings, and general use. You can also give them as gifts to your family and friends. Proceeds from cards sold in China are used exclusively for projects in China.

Cards are usually sold in packs of 10 costing RMB 75-85 (about US \$10). The money goes a long way: Just RMB 1 provides a year's supply of Vitamin A supplements for a Chinese child, boosting her immune system and reducing his chances of childhood mortality.

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Also, welcome to our stand sale and appreciate the support from the following hotels and department stores (Please contact us for the updated schedule):

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PYJ Center	Nov. 19, 2007 - Nov. 23, 2007
Pacific Century Place, Beijing	Dec. 1, 2007 - Dec. 25, 2007
China World Shopping Mall	Dec. 1, 2007 - Dec. 25, 2007



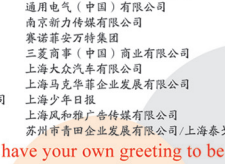
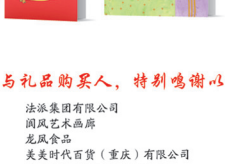
Among primary schools in rural China, less than one in three schools has sports classes. 66% of these rural students have less than one hour of physical activity per day. This is because these schools lack sports equipment, sports facilities and teachers who can conduct sports classes. To reduce the gap between the rural and urban areas, UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and local education authorities, promotes the "Sports-in-a-Box" project in schools in remote areas of western China. Please refer to Page 11 to learn the details of "Sports-in-a-Box". Offer your love to purchase "Sports-in-a-Box". UNICEF will send it to the schools in the western poor regions of China on behalf of you. Please write down the details of your contact information, we will send you the feedback regarding the delivery of the Box. Thank you!

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13003235552	13796661898	13823556626
13482424149	13920585377	13550115095
13661412346	13911709735	13666074679
13818853316	13001346290	13588473747
13564347752	13389990943	13858112272
13003256940	13820985397	13952003232
13636305530	13388063699	13656008056
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Two kidney transplants rejected by regulations

By Huang Daohen

A proposal to cross donate kidneys was denied last week in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, triggering an extensive discussion on the human organ transplant.

Two uremic patients, He Zhigang and He Yiwen, both from Hunan Province, who urgently

needed kidney transplants to save their lives found, by accident, suitable kidney resources within their respective families. The families then decided to carry out the transplant surgery through a cross donation as soon as possible and came to Guangzhou last December.

However, the life-saving surgery was sus-

pended when the ethics committee of the hospital opposed the idea.

The case of cross donation of human organs between families in China has the precedent. In April 2006, there were two pairs of couples in Wuhan, Hubei Province, who succeeded in the operation.



The first kidney cross donation case between families succeeded in Wuhan, Hubei province, in 2006, drawing public concern over legal loopholes in Chinese transplant law.

Photo by Zhuang Yixie

Response

Hospital response

The Second Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical College, which was supposed to carry out the surgery, held a press conference Saturday and to respond publicly to the incident for the first time. Chen Delai, deputy director of the hospital, admitted that the halting of the surgery was due to the ethic committee's decision.

Chen said the cancellation is not a technical problem. Before carrying out any human organ transplant operations, the college must get approval from the Human Organ Transplant Clinical Application and Ethics Committee of the hospital.

"Eight of the nine members voted against it," Chen told local *Guangzhou Daily* reporters.

The reason why the ethics committee made the decision was in accordance with relevant legislation, Chen said. According to regulations, the recipient of a living organ is limited to the donor's spouse or immediate relatives within three generations. Genetics aside, the regulations also takes into consideration extended family trying to provide aid.

"Help and family relationships are indispensable. The ethic committee finally figured that this case had not reached the exceptive condition," Chen said.

However, if the supervisory department approves the surgery, the hospital will bow to the higher level, Chen said.

Puzzled family waits

The two patients He Zhigang, 39, and He Yiwen, 17, are from ordinary families in Henan Province. He Zhigang is a local farmer and He Yiwen is still a high school student. They are now hospitalized, waiting transplant surgery.

"We have now spent more than 30,000 yuan in Guangzhou. We are really puzzled why the hospital promised to do the surgery before we decided to come and now object to it," He Zhigang said.

The money they spent was basically donated by the locals in his hometown, He Zhigang said. "If the surgery cannot be done, I do not know how to face the people back home," he said, adding that he is still waiting for the surgery to be approved.

Fear of breeding illegal organ trade

In response to this incident, Chen Zhonghua, vice chairman of the organ transplant center of the Chinese Medical Association, pointed out that the current Human Organ Transplant Ordinance has loopholes in the law.

"For uremic patients, living kidney transplantation is not the only solution, nor is it the best way," Chen said.

Besides, the domestic organ transplant fever contains the risk of breeding illegal organ trade. "Nowadays, there are illegal traders using loopholes in the law," Chen said.

However, he believes that it is not necessary for revision since the implementation of the new regulation is less than one year away. "Revision of laws always triggers new problems, but that does not mean it won't be revised in the future," Chen said.

Comment

Netizens: all in favor of the cross donation

The release of the veto by the hospital's ethics committee last week was a hot topic. After reviewing the main domestic website, we found that a majority of Internet users opposed the hospital's decision.

Ethics vs lives

When people's lives are endangered, ethics may become less important.

— Simon21

In the end, is the hospital's code of ethics important, or is the patient's life?

— Clare

Life is precious. One should strive to live even if the hope is a mere glimmer, let alone the disease is curable.

— Hunter

Who should decide people's lives?

Only eight individuals voting on a life-saving operation! It's nonsense.

— baa3527

The doctors should show mercy. What

if the patients were their own family members? Time is life. Time won't wait for two critically-ill patients.

— lawbreak

Saving life is the point! The patients certified that the two sides were willing and not coerced. How could the ethics committee stand by such regulation? Isn't helping the sick the sworn duty of every doctor?

— Xiaohei

Another interpretations

The law prohibits cross donation of kidneys, but voluntary blood donation is a sort of cross donation. We should stop donating blood.

— Della111

Background

China launched a new rule to regulate organ transplants last May. According to the new law, it will be mandatory for all organ transplant operations in China to be discussed with and approved by a medical science and ethics committee.

The measure will play a vital role in banning the sale of organs and putting a stop to practices that violate the ethics and medical standards of organ transplants.

The new law is also a response to years of suspicion that hospitals are conducting a lucrative and expanding trade in selling organs to foreigners who arrive in the country on tourist visas.

Amnesty International, a NGO, estimated that the number of US residents on the organ transplant waiting list usually hovers around 100,000. Approximately 25,000 in the US transplants are performed each year.

Debate of the week

Not the real thing

By Huang Daohen

An art gallery in Canada hosted a controversial exhibit of archeological artifacts from China, most of which were stolen.

"Treasures Unearthed: Chinese Archeological Artifacts," the exhibition was held at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria last week. However, local media dubbed the event "Tomb Raiders" because of its 500 featured objects plundered from Chinese tombs.

The whole exhibit dates from the 16th century BC to the 10th century AD, and most pieces are bronze.

Objects range from elaborate ceremonial daggers, saddle regalia, cooking braziers and food steamers, to bronze mat weights used by nomadic tribesmen carved in the shape of wild cats attacking bovines.

"These pieces, were pilfered years ago from ancient tombs. The show is very controversial," ardent art collector and museum benefactor Joey Tanenbaum said.

Rich kids experience the poor side of town

By Huang Daohen

An education advisory organization in Qingdao, Shandong Province, recently launched an experience activity for wealthy kids to experience a beggar's life, causing controversy among the public.

Wearing messy clothes, holding a bowl in one hand, over ten children from wealthy families, mostly primary and secondary school students, begged along the main road for a whole day and at destinations agreed upon by their parents.

The event, named "From beggar to prince," aims to let children know more about life through first-hand experience. "Physical memory is an instinctive one," Tan Xin, the organizer, said. "We hope kids will cherish life."

However, others doubt the effectiveness of the activity, claiming that it's a self-propaganda show rather than an education.

Winner takes the money and runs

By Huang Daohen

A sophomore student in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, chose to quit school last week after winning a five million yuan lottery jackpot.

The student Zhang Yong (pseudonym) from a technical college bought the lottery ticket by chance on Christmas Eve. Learning he had won the following day, Zhang hurriedly took the ticket and his ID card to the lottery award center.

Zhang gave his roommates 2,000 yuan each, and then packed up his belongings and went home.

Zhang's quitting shocked his schoolmates and the teachers as well. Some understood, while others thought study should come first.

Legendary soprano seeks Asian voice

By Han Manman

New Zealand soprano Kiri Te Kanawa, 63, a living legend from the world of opera, presented a gala evening at the National Grand Theater Wednesday.

Dame Kiri has sung in every major opera house and concert hall and has won the hearts of millions of opera fans around the world both for her royal looks and the silky beauty of her voice.

On Wednesday night, she sang arias and songs from operas by Mozart, Puccini, Bellini and Richard Strauss with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Julian Reynolds.

Her rise to fame was legendary and her career has been

closely linked with the greatest tenors of her age, in particular, tenors Jose Carreras and Placido Domingo, as well as maestros such as the late Sir Georg Solti. Dame Kiri is well-known for her performance at the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981 at which she performed for one of the largest telecast audiences of any singer in history estimated at over 600 million.

After stepping down from the opera stage in 2004, she has focused on concerts and recitals. She also devotes her time to the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation, which provides musical mentoring as well as practical support

for young singers and musicians from her native New Zealand.

At Tuesday's news conference, Dame Kiri said her foundation is also looking for a "good voice" from Asia. She said many Asian singers have very charming voices and she wants to help them perform on the world stage. She recently discovered a tenor from South Korea and recommended him to the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

New Zealander Te Kanawa hails from Maori aristocracy and she was appointed a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1982. She gained legendary status almost overnight after her



Kiri Te Kanawa

Photo by Chen Hong

sensational debut as the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 1971. From there, she moved rapidly up to the front ranks of international opera and has become one of the world's most famous sopranos.

Mentally-retarded artists show their works



A mentally retarded person draws a picture.

Photo provided by Beijing Huiling

By He Jianwei

In a courtyard house east of Beihai Park, 50 paintings and handicrafts made by mentally-retarded people were showcased last Sunday afternoon.

Visitors to the exhibition could buy the handicrafts and paintings. All the works were created in the Beijing Huiling's workshop The Three Primary Colors. The Beijing Huiling is a NGO founded in April 2000 to serve people with mental disabilities.

The Huiling offers a community-based service and a public place of study for the mentally retarded.

"It differs from the traditional and enclosed type of schools for these special individuals, as it truly is rooted in the community, using community resources and facilities," Jane Pierini, executive director of peopleLINK, a professional social work consulting center based in Beijing, said.

Pierini helped the Beijing Huiling set up. "The Three Primary Colors" in 2000. "Painting is a good interaction between the trainers, and trainees and the result is beautiful," Pierini said.

In 1996 Pierini met Meng Weina, the founder of the Huiling in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. Pierini is a social worker and works for the NGOs. "We trained the staff and helped the Beijing Huiling to establish its model," she said.

The school has accepted 50 mentally-retarded students. "The purpose and goal is to help them to acquire independence, consciousness and confidence. We strive for equal opportunity and equal participation for the mentally-retarded," Meng Weina said.

Financial support for the Beijing Huiling comes from two areas. "Thirty percent is the fees from the parents and the rest is from donations," Meng said.

An Australian tour agency, Intrepid Travel, arranges small tour groups to participate in Huiling's "Hutong Tour." Each of the trainees shows off their singing and dancing talents as well as serving cookies and tea and teaching calligraphy.

"Their paintings touch many hearts and give us much happiness," Stuart Beard, manager of Intrepid Travel, said.

Beard first visited the Beijing Huiling in July 2005. "They taught me calligraphy. At that moment, I wrote down my Chinese name 'Laohu (tiger)'. Traveling here not only allowed me to see the beautiful scenery, but also to know the lifestyle," he said.

Since 2005, there have been two sessions of art exhibitions held. In the aftermath, Huiling has received several invitations to participate in other art exhibitions for disabled people.

This year's exhibition will take place in three places. Besides the Huiling Courtyard, it will also be staged at Shuiguqi Bar in Jiu Gulou Dajie and at Xingfu Jiayuan Office in Guangqumen Dajie.

Where did the countdown find you?



Countdown at the China Millennium Monument.

Photo by Feng Li

By Gan Tian

The New Year walked into people's lives to the tic-toc of the big clock. Where people went for their personal New Year's countdown revealed the city's most compelling places.

Chenny Yang, 24, sales representative, the Place

My friends and I went to the Place at about 10 pm. It had the biggest screen and a good plaza, so we thought that their party would be outdoors and free. However, to our great disappointment, we found that they had built a stage in the center of the plaza and only allowed people with invitations to enter.

Many people gathered on the higher stairs to watch the show and that's where we went. When Taiwanese star Wilber Pan started singing familiar songs, all the audi-

ence joined in. At countdown time, the big screen didn't disappoint - the stars, hearts and flowers that bloomed with fireworks, let us know the New Year was here! **Locus Ribbons, 29, student, 798 Art District**

I saw their advertisement, saying "New Year's Eve sees the beginning of the end for the little backwater town we call Beijing," so I visited 798 Art District. It was great! In particular, the Acupuncture Records' "Genesis 2008" party! The 4000-square meter gallery and workshops in the 798 were packed with people. Beijing's top local DJs were there. It was so creative.

The only downer was that the 100-yuan admission fee was a little expensive for some local students and it was so chilly outside!

Alex Kidman, 28, fashion designer, Happy Valley

My company arranged for us to go to Happy Valley and we had a great time. There were thousands of people there counting down the seconds to the zero mark. Santa Clause, the deer, the angels, the snowmen ... if you weren't familiar with the word, "Carnival," you should have come here to see what it was like. Sometimes we thought we were too old, but the activities and excitement turned us into kids again. The New Year at Happy Valley spotlighted dreams, fantasies and love.

Amor Mao, 25, editor, Nanshan Skating Center

I went skiing and skating with my friends at the Nanshan Skating Center. New Year should be white with snow, so I figured

skating was a good choice.

Frank Lee, 28, teacher, Drum Tower

Counting down to the New Year at the Drum Tower was really a typical Chinese thing. Staying in China for the New Year should be like this and here you could hear the sounds of ringing bells for miles.

Tone Chow, 24, translator, the New World Shopping Center

I spend New Year's Eve every year at the New World Shopping Center. The shopping malls offer the best discounts and, after two hours of shopping, we stood under the biggest Christmas tree in town to feel the New Year spirit. Beijing is a luxurious city and we should expect it to become much more international.

Looking for a room during the Games

BEIJING DOWNTOWN
BACKPACKERS
ACCOMMODATION



Popular hotels like this one in Nanluguoxiang have an early reservation list.

Photo by Zhang Kaixin

By Han Mamman

Although the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympics is still eight months away, local hotels are already taking

reservations.

Hotels expect that during the Games, about one million domestic visitors and 500,000 foreign tourists will come to Beijing.

Star-graded Beijing hotels have many reservations. Family hotels, which might not be comparable to star-graded ones, still remain appealing to some visitors for their comfort.

Official reception hotels

Beijing Olympic organizers unveiled 132 official reception hotels for next year's Games last Friday.

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) said 120 contracted hotels are in Beijing with 38 being five-star hotels, 45 four-star, 22 three-star and 15 not yet rated. The hotels supply about 30,000 rooms in total.

BOCOG said the average room rate for a double room in a five-star hotel is 2,799 yuan, 2,155 yuan in a four-star hotel. The three-star hotel charge is 1,466 yuan with two-star hotels at 980 yuan per day.

The other 12 official reception hotels are in six co-host cities, including Hong Kong, Shenyang, Tianjin, Qingdao, Qinhuaingdao and Shanghai.

Budget hotels

For most tourists, the high-priced official reception hotels are out of range. They are trying to find reasonably-priced hotels for the Olympics and budget hotels are the popular choice. Currently there are nearly 200 budget hotels in Beijing providing a total of 13,000 rooms.

Several budget hotels such as Home Inns, Super 8, the Jinjiang Inn and 7 Days Inn have started accepting reservations. Prices range from hundreds to thousands depending mostly on the inn's location.

Jijiang Inn provides Olympic rooms from 399 yuan to 699 yuan per day for their members. Super 8 and Home Inns offer Olympic rooms from 999 to 2,500 yuan per day.

Some hotels say they have received group room reservation for the Olympic Games and predict that single reservations will peak this March and April.

Home-stay inns

Many local families do not want to miss out on a golden business opportunity during the Olympics. Many have advertised their vacant rooms online and the price is not cheap.

At present, an ordinary home-stay inn with one bedroom located in the downtown Beijing area usually costs around 1,500-2,000 yuan per month. During the Games, many of these vacant rooms will be rented out, and some may charge as much as 1,000 yuan per night. It means that, in less than one month during the Olympic period, the room can make money equal to a year's rental fee.

There are currently five home-stay agencies online accepting Olympic room reservations now.

Two of them, "Homestay Beijing 2008" and "China Homestay," are operated by a group of expats living in Beijing. According to China Homestay manager Jacob Cooke, they have 556 spaces remaining for next August. The fee is US \$800 per person for the entire four-week period, with a maximum of two guests per house.

Homestay Beijing 2008, run by Piet Dos, a Dutchman living in Beijing, has 200 different homestay accommodations available and all its hosts speak English.

Links
homestaybeijing2008.com
chinahomestay.org
olyhomtel.com/cn
2008bay.com
2008inn.com

No need now to fly to Hong Kong for visa changes

By Annie Wei

I bet two out of every ten foreigners in town have experienced visa drama: coming to China with a travel visa then wanting to change it into a work visa; coming to China for a three-week project that gets delayed and the visa is about to expire; drinking or dating too much and discovering your visa card already expired.

No matter what goes wrong with your visa, you have to get it sorted out. The most popular way, to date, for long-term expats is to fly to Hong Kong and get a multi-entry F visa.

Flying to Hong Kong does not always mean a fabulous shopping trip. So, since August 2007, the Beijing Exit and Entry Bureau started a new procedure called "Green Visa Channel" to introduce a more convenient visa service.

The "green visa channel" helps people with an L (travel) visa or F (business) visa convert it to a work visa without leaving Beijing. Also, for foreigners who need to leave China urgently, the green channel helps shorten a five-day routine procedure into one or two days.

Elisa Wang, assistant to human resource director of Beijing Olympic Broadcasting (BOB), said it makes her job a lot easier.

Wang said that before the Olympic Games kicks off in August, there will be 1,000 overseas technicians and experts coming to Beijing for short-term projects. Although these people will all have their visas done prior to their visit, unexpected things can happen.

"For example, a technician is scheduled to come to China for a three-week project, so he



Foreigners spend as much time in the Exit and Entry Bureau as in bars. Photo by Liu Ying

applies for a one-month business visa," Wang said, "But the project changes and he needs to be in China for a year: we need to help him with a work visa."

"Last time, we had one guy who had to stay longer, but his visa was going to expire within two days," Wang said, "We applied for the green channel and got it done in a day."

Huge numbers of foreign visitors are expected to be processed this year. Ji Wei, an officer from the Beijing Exit and Entry Bureau, said the number of foreigners increased 20 percent last year over 2006.

However, the green channel procedure is not available to every foreigner in town.

The main targets are Olympic-related: judges and coaches with the Olympic committee, staff members working for the BOB, Olympic broadcasting companies, sponsors and contractors; senior management staff, project contractors working for Beijing's high-tech enterprises or the world fortune 500 companies; high-ranked intellectuals for Chinese government bodies, business investors, foreign employees who work at Beijing's key enterprises or industries and spouses and children of the aforementioned people.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I plan to visit Tianjin some weekend soon, but I would prefer to take high speed train. I heard about a 45-minute train. Is this true?

The Beijing-Tianjin (45 minute) line is not in operation yet. Right now, the fastest train between these two cities takes about 75 minutes. News reports say that the new line will begin operation in February. *Beijing Today* will have further details when the line officially opens to the public.

All my friends have been to the Ice Festival in Harbin. I am wondering when it starts and what people can actually do there?

It starts on January 5 every year. You can visit the Bingxue Dashijie, or World of Ice and Snow, which is highly recommended by visitors. It has an Olympic theme this year and charges 150 yuan for entrance – half price for students. Skiing or snowboarding around Harbin is easy, and the snow is much better than that found in Beijing.

Do you know how can I get my cellphone number back if I lose my mobile phone?

If your SIM card service is China Mobile, just go to a China Mobile Service Center near you. Tell them you lost your phone and want the same number back. You will need to pay 20 yuan for the service and sign some papers. You will get a new SIM card with the same number and the same credit that was in the phone when you lost it, assuming no one else has used your phone in the meantime.

A China Mobile Service Center is different from stores that sell China Mobile sim cards. Call 10086 for directions.

I am thinking of getting a counterfeit money detector. Do you know where can I get one and the cost?

You can find them easily at most of the IT stores in Zhongguancun, Haidian district, or Baiaohui on Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie. It's called "yanchaoji" in Chinese pinyin. There are many models, and prices range from 10 yuan up to several hundred.

My roommate and I are sharing an apartment with a rent of 6,000 yuan per month, but my roommate just told me that she could not withdraw enough money because of a 3,000 yuan per day limit on Chinese ATMs. Is this true? What is the normal withdrawal limit on most Chinese ATMs?

Since June 2007, the total withdrawal limit on Chinese ATMs has risen to at most 20,000 yuan per card per day. But each machine might have limit. If she can wait in the bank to see a teller, she can withdraw up to 50,000 yuan.

(By Wei Ying)

By He Jianwei

Two decades ago, music came on cassettes. A decade ago it was the Discman. Today, music is downloaded or streamed off the Internet. Regardless of the medium, music is always part of our lives.

However, some people in the music making business – especially those genres which fly under the radar –

distribute their works without the aid of a commercial record label. For such artists, independent means attitude. Although the only word that comes to mind when talking about modern mainstream music is “sordid,” more and more independent record labels are appearing to fill the void of creativity.

Indie is an

Independent music in town



Hitlike's In

Shanshui

Sun Dawei founded Shanshui Records in December 2002. The label is a gathering place for electronic musicians and is not limited to any specific concept or musical taste. Its 2003 release of *V.A. landscape* includes works from electronic artists from China and overseas. It has generated a new electronic music space in China.

“The idea of releasing my own work was interesting, so I created this record label. The people involved in Shanshui are easily moved by the electronic music and intelligent dance music,” Sun said.

Sun likes to play video games, and the name of his record label is from the fighting game *Mortal Kombat 3*. “I transliterated the name of a character in this game as the name of my label,” he said.

“Independent” is more related with the concept and creation of music,” he said.

2005 was a remarkable year for Shanshui, and Sun released his first album *sulumi - visit < partial works > remix*, and also produced a solo album for foreign artist COVOX. His compilation album *V.A. landscape 2* was released, which was the second compilation album under Sun's indie label “Landscape.”

V.A. landscape 2 made it to every corner of the world and drew praise from the music magazine *Wire*.

Little Sound

Little Sound, focuses on aural art albums are related music,” Li Pengfei,

Li likes aural art music very difficult. “The label gives me to the audio works collecting the album.”

“There aren't a art. I wasn't trying an outlet for the s downplay it by ca

Most of the al made on CD-R. MP3 format and he said.

To date, Litt making it the m music label in C



What Has Happened To Me In This World

Photos provided by these independent record labels

attitude

Bye Bye Rock' N' Roll



Bedzoo

Liu Wei is a visual designer and created Bedzoo in 2004. "Most of us are Indie Elec(sic) animals," Liu said.

The decision to found his label was a haphazard one. "I just wanted to provide a platform for musicians and fans who like electronic music in China, and to promote the development of this kind of music in a certain group," he said.

"I hope that on my label, music can be visualized, and the visual works and be turned into music," Liu, who works in visual design, said.

Liu thought independent music was created by musicians in a more free state. "Independent music carries the ideal of each individual involved in its creation,"

he said.

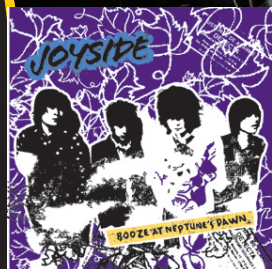
The name Beezoo speaks of exactly what Liu wants to do: "Bed could be your bedroom or our studio. Most of our inspiration comes from time in bed," he said.

The first release *WE VA*, in May 2004, collected artists from the area's electronic music performers. Since then, Bedzoo has established its own style with two EP releases. "The sound was getting more euphonious and was a lot more fun for the audience," he said.

In 2006, 12 musicians and 12 new designers got involved with a new album *Bye Bye Rock' N' Roll*. "This album was a great success for our label," he said.

Last year, the label published *As Vivid As Your Lips*, which includes two artists who perform pop, punk and chiptune music.

Snapline makes a performance



Booze At Neptune's Dawn

Maybe Mars

Maybe Mars Records is a new label and production company dedicated to the innovative sounds of young China, and was founded in August 2007. Michael Pettis, co-owner of club D 22 in Beijing, came up with the idea to make an independent record label. Yang Haisong, vocalist of PK 14, Li Qing, drummer of CarsickCars and guitarist in Snapline, and Zheng Changyu, participated in its founding.

"Michael wanted to make it clear it was a Beijing local record label, so we decided to use the name Bingmasi in Chinese. There is a *hutong* called Bei Bingmasi in Nanluoguxiang," Li Qing said.

They transliterated the name Bei Bingmasi into "Maybe Mars" in English. "Mars is not only a planet, but is also the Roman god of war. It seemed related to Bingmasi," she said.

Although it is a new label, Maybe Mars has released three albums: Joyside's *Booze At Neptune's Dawn*, Carsick Cars' *Carsick Cars* and Snapline's *Party is Over, Pornostar*.

"We chose the band which has at least one innovative character," she said. Joyside is rock and roll at its core, and its sound emerged from the city's streets and alleys. It is equally at home in the dark underground clubs of New York, London and Beijing.

Carsick Cars was an unknown band in 2005, but as of last year, it had toured Europe with Sonic Youth and played in major festivals both in China and abroad.

The hard and cold tunes of Snapline's music are suitable for train stations and empty factories.

Where to buy and listen to indie music

Most music is ordered from the labels' websites, but these shops stock some independent albums:

Sugar Jar

A workstation for Chinese independent music.

Where: 798 Art District, 2 Jiuqianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6640 6620

Where: 3 Shuimo Xinqu, the west gate of Tsinghua University, Haidian District

Tel: 6357 3351

Wuya

Focuses on promoting the

albums and independent music performances.

Where: 61 Bei Sanhuan Zhong Lu, Haidian District
Tel: 8208 3183

Fu Sheng Records

Promotes China's alternative music scene.

Where: 40 Di'anmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng District
Tel: 6613 6182

Blue Line Records

Where: Beiying Hongyuan, Xijiekou, Xicheng District
Tel: 6651 1363

Fruityshop

After Zhai Ruixin finished his first album in 2003, he decided to release it himself. "I didn't have any connections in the Beijing music scene, so I couldn't find a label to release through," Zhai said.

He releases electronic music on CD-R. "Independent music has to be creative and express the musician's ego," he said.

Two albums have been released under his label. ME:MO, his first, features intelligent dance music and glitch music. The other is the glitch work *Housing Youth* illustrated by chocorange.

ound

ounded in August 2006, rather than music. "All our noise art and experimental founder of Little Sound, said, and found such experimental to purchase in China. e a chance to not only listen, but also satisfy my hobby of ms," he said.

g to promote it – just to have sound. That's why I decided to calling it 'Little Sound,'" he said. bums released by his label are. Sometimes I put the music into sell it together with the CD,"

le Sound has released 42 albums, most productive independent China.



Housing Youth

Rothian ghost makes his exit



Julien Gracq

Leading French author dead at 97

By He Jianwei

Julien Gracq, one of France's leading authors of the 20th century and known for surrealism, died at age 97 on December 23 in a hospital in Angers in northwestern France.

Gracq, who turned down France's highest literary award the Goncourt in 1951, spent most of his life in retreat in the small village in western France where he was born.

"[He was] one of the greatest French writers of the 20th century, who, far from the worlds of fashion and society, built up a system of original thought and a powerful body of work," French President Nicolas Sarkozy said after Gracq's death.

Gracq was a poet, novelist, playwright and critic. His literary debut came with *At Argol's Castle*, which sold only 150 copies and was published in 1938 at his own expense.

He won acclaim for his 1950 masterpiece *The Opposite Shore* (*La Rivage des Syrtes*), about collective suicide in an imaginary landscape. In 1951, he shocked the literary world by turning down

the Goncourt.

"Julien Gracq" is the pseudonym of Louis Poirier, born in 1910. He worked as a teacher of history and geography at a Parisian high school, and, in 1939, met Andre Breton and the Surrealists. Although influenced by the movement he established his own distinctive style.

"We lost a discreet man, an independent mind, a leading figure of contemporary French literature," French Prime Minister Francois Fillon said.

Gracq did not have many readers in China. Two of his books have Chinese editions: Yilin Press published his *Balcony in the Forest* and Changjiang Literature Art Press published *The Opposite Shore* in the 1990s.

Lin Yidong, 28, a doctoral student in linguistics of Hunan University, read Gracq's *Balcony* seven years ago. He knew Gracq's name from an article in a magazine. The article introduced several great authors that the Chinese readers did not know.

"I'm fascinated with the imaginary and ideal world that Gracq creates in his books, but actually, the world was like the real world - full of anxiety," Lin said.

The Opposite Shore is difficult to find in China because its production run included only 2,000 volumes. "I have tried to buy it at a second-hand book fair, but I haven't found it yet. Maybe after his death, some Chinese publishing houses will pick up his works," he said.

By Charles Zhu

With the publication of *Exit Ghost* (Houghton Mifflin, 292 pp, US \$26), Philip Roth, one of the most prominent Jewish writers on the American literary scene and a master in Freudian psychoanalysis, brings to a close his Zuckerman saga.

In the nine novels since *Ghost Writer*, Zuckerman's first full-blown appearance, Roth followed the life of this writer who is so closely like but adamantly unlike himself.

The novel begins in late October 2004 in a post-September 11 America. Zuckerman was living on his mountain-top house near a bird refuge. His country neighbor Larry, a solicitous family man and retired insurance company lawyer, developed a fast-spreading cancer and killed himself, leaving a note urging Zuckerman, also suffering from cancer, to seek treatment in New York.

Zuckerman goes to a New York hospital for an operation, and though his impotence is already beyond repair, there is a new technique to relieve him of diapers. At the hospital coffee shop, Zuckerman spies a key figure from his past: Amy Bellette, the object of his youthful dreams and fantasies. But Amy is already an old woman, an old wreck whose face has been ravaged by time.

He avoided talking to her.

When he visits Amy in her broken, walk-up apartment with bare bulb lighting and urine smells in the hallway in the later part of the fiction, he felt intense sympathy for cherishing of the past. She greeted him as a girl, dressed for the occasion, and talked incessantly about her love of younger days with her dead writer lover. It seemed the only thing she cared about in life.

Through a deal with a young couple to exchange his mountaintop house with an apartment in New York, Zuckerman came to know 31-year-old Jamie Logan, the wife in the couple. Jamie Logan was an aspiring writer struggling to get her voice out. She was jittery and sensitive to terrorist attacks after September 11, yet was an expert in handling male desire. Zuckerman presumed that energetic Jamie must have a more aggressive lover than her husband who lived comfortably off her family money.

In a series of dialogues written by Zuckerman in fantasy after his talks with Jamie, he steps up his own flirtations. Finally, he succeeds in talking Jamie into coming to his room for a rendezvous. In Zuckerman's part, he gets cold feet, packs his belongings and returns home with the companions of dead authors writing about death.

In the novel, Roth raises the issue he has discussed ever since *Ghost Writer*: vital youth challenges tired age as represented by Zuckerman.

Roth confirmed in his interview that Zuckerman will never appear in his books again. However, critics say it would be unsurprising if Zuckerman makes a return, as the author had announced his exit several times before this Rothian installment.



CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following new releases for *Beijing Today* readers.

Sea of Lost Love

By Santa Montefiore, 416 pp, Hodder & Stoughton, 90 yuan

For Celestria, the highlight of the summer of 1958 is a lavish ball in honor of Archie Montague's 50th birthday. She is looking forward to practicing her flirtation skills, but her grandfather encourages her to play detective and to seek out an explanation for the bewildering events. On her search, she transforms herself from a selfish girl to a mature woman and saves the family home.

Dylan on Dylan

By Bob Dylan and Jonathan Cott, 464 pp, Hodder Paperback, 110 yuan

This book gathers for the first time 29 of the most significant and revealing conversations with Bob Dylan. The conversations are collected from the earliest days of his career in 1962 through 2004. Highlights include interviews from *Rolling Stone* by Jann Wenner, Jonathan Cott, Kurt Loder and Mikal Gilmore, as well as with *Playboy*.

Let Me Eat Cake

By Paul Arnott, 240 pp, Sceptre, 110 yuan

The book tells the true story of one slightly overweight but still mobile father of four, and how he got through life on a diet of sweets, chocolate and cakes. The history of the sweetmeats he has scoffed in the last four-and-a-half decades is dovetailed into a well-researched account of the international sweet and cake trade since the ancient Greeks.

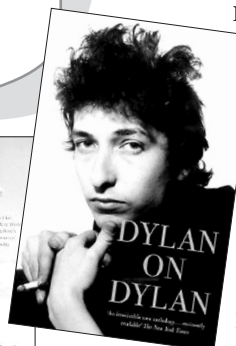
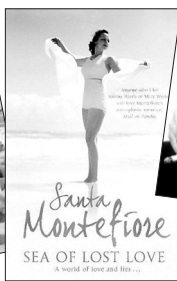
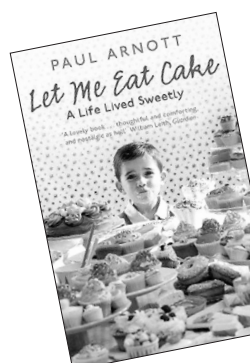
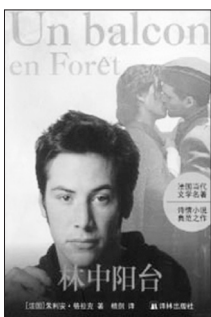
CNPIEC Bookstore

Where: the second floor of CNPIEC, No 16 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 8:30 am-6:30 pm

Tel: 6500 1859, 6592 6871

(By He Jianwei)





By Gan Tian

Many cafes and restaurants offer live shows at peak hours, but few serve up mouth-watering eats to complement any aural offerings: that is where Haidiehong, or Red Ocean Butterfly, shines.

Haidiehong's dishes are named after songs performed by entertainers in the Ocean Butterfly Company. *Heishehui*, or Black Society, is a dish made of steak strips and *youtiao*, a kind of Chinese doughnut. The name suggests its color: dark shades created by the blend of beef, black juice and sesame. The sticky part of the dish is beef, and the crispy, crunchy part is *youtiao*. The combination is a little salty, but tastes wonderful.

For the special fruit dish, each diner is given a small dish of waxberry powder to dip other fruits, such as watermelon, papaya, banana, apple and pineapple, into. The sweet fruits coated with sour waxberry are a real delight!

But Haidiehong's star is not its cuisine, but its live shows.

Do not forget, Haidiehong was opened by a music company. The acts which grace its stage are very professional. The size of the stage and the equipment used are fit for any international performance. A camera broadcasts the live performances in real time to private rooms, so all diners can enjoy the performance no matter where they are seated.

"We don't care what company you are working for or what

prizes you have won. We just care about how well you can perform," Bi Xiaoshi, manager of the restaurant and the music company, said.

Some rising stars have already fallen in love with performing at Haidiehong, and regulars have a following of devoted fans.

Since the restaurant is owned by a music store, it has a small music shop inside with CDs and more. If your order is slow to arrive, you can head to the shop and browse.

If you can't decide whether to dump the evening's entertainment money into dining or seeing a show, try a visit to Haidiehong, which serves up both for the price of a meal.

Haidiehong

Where: Room 301, F3, Zhongguohongjie Tower, Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6506 7737

Average cost: 80 yuan per person

Jindingxuan

This chain restaurant has good desserts and live shows after 10 pm.

Though the entertainers have nice voices, the noisy environment takes you focus from their music.

Where: 15, Tuanjiehu Nan Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8596 8881

Alfa

It invites different groups to the pub to provide wonderful jazz shows. Jazz fans should not miss it.

Where: 6, Xingfuyicun, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6413 0086

Makye Ame

It has Tibetan singers after 8 pm who engage the to the customers in a Tibetan dance. The food is also warm and nice.

Where: F2, Golden Lake Apartment, 23, Baijiazhuang Dongli, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6508 8986

Photos provided by Haidiehong

..... Dining



Taste of Beijing

At the beginning of 2008, East 33 will bring you the unique tastes of old Beijing. You can savor the delightful Beijing snacks culture at a most historic hotel and rediscover and experience the glamour of Beijing snacks. Free flowing soft drinks are provided.

Where: East 33, Raffle Beijing Hotel, 33 Dongchengan Jie, Dongcheng
Open: Noon – 2 pm, 6:30 pm – 10 pm
Admission: 188+15 percent yuan (lunch), 218+15 percent (dinner)
Tel: 6526 3388 ext 5171, 8500 4171 (For reservations)



Pass By Bar

The Tibetan-themed Pass By Bar is an ideal place for intimate conversations, with an extensive English-language library, a useful message board, rotating photo exhibits on the walls, and a good mix of Chinese and foreign regulars.

Where: 108 Nan LouGuxiang, Dongcheng
Open: 9 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 8403 8004



Nashville Bar & Restaurant

The Nashville has live music, with 20 percent country and 80 percent classic rock. Besides whiskey, wine and cocktails, the bar offers reasonably-priced snacks and a wide selection of bottled beer.

Where: Haoyun Jie, 29 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 11 am – 3 am next day
Tel: 5867 0298

..... Nightlife

OK! With Radiohead

The show features Supermarket, Peng Tan, Tort Bus, D-thing and Lucie Cheung. They try to explain Radiohead's style with their electric musical tastes.

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng
When: 8:30 pm, January 12
Admission: 40-80 yuan



Great Party

The party is largely represented by the diversity of eight bands' styles.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng
When: 3 pm – 11 am next day, January 12
Admission: 40 yuan (advance), 50 yuan (door)
Tel: 6404 2711



One Nation – Farewell Edition

A farewell party at Vics featuring four international DJs selected from schools around Beijing.

Where: Vics, inside the north gate of the Workers Stadium, Chaoyang
When: 9 pm – 2 am next day, January 12
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 5293 0333

Folk Music

The show features Li Mo and Liu Dong-ming

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 10 pm
Admission: 30 yuan, January 10
Tel: 8196 4820

..... Outdoor



Tanzhe & Jietai Monastery and Pagoda Forest

Tucked away on the slopes outside of the city center in a southwestern suburb (some 40 kilometers away from downtown Beijing), the scenic tourist spot includes two millennial monasteries, covering a total area of 73 square kilometers.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for bus transportation.

When: 9:30 am – 4 pm, January 10
Cost: 250 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041
 (Registration at CCC is important)

High Rise

Your chance to do the High Rise hike backwards, walking on a trail that connects two villages. With better roads built in recent years, less people use the mountain trails so we were very lucky to find this trail still active.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)
When: 8:30 am – 5 pm, January 6
Cost: 200 yuan
Tel: 13910025516 (Reservations are essential)



Great Wall Mutianyu and Ming Tombs

Mutianyu is a famous section of the Great Wall. Descending from the wall, you will head to the remarkable Ming Tombs, where thirteen emperors are buried.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for bus transportation.

When: 9 am – 6:30 pm, January 10
Cost: 350 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041
 (Registration at CCC is important)

..... Airline

Singapore Airlines to advertise all-inclusive prices for global tickets

From 1 January 2008, Singapore Airlines will advertise the price of air tickets on an all-inclusive basis, worldwide. This means, in its advertising, the airline will show the full price payable by the customer at the time of sale, including all taxes, surcharges and fees. In the interest of transparency, customers will still

see a breakdown of what they pay when they book online – the separation of fare, taxes, surcharges and fees will be maintained as part of the booking process.

Where: Room 801, Tower 2 China World Trade Center, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang
Tel: 6505 2233

(By Li Jing)

Life's dangerous chemicals

Sc

By Li Fenghua

We all want our space to be clean and safe – sanctuaries away from the chaos and cares of the outside world. However toxic invaders may lurk inside, and put you at risk. Here are five familiar pollutants to watch out for, and tips on how to minimize your exposure.

Ca

1. Cigarette Smoke

Cigarette smoke is a toxic pollutant made up of as many as 4,000 chemicals. In smokers, it causes a variety of deadly cancers, as well as asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, heart disease, respiratory allergies and complications during pregnancy. In addition to the smokers who die every year from illnesses caused by cigarette smoke, thousands of non-smokers die from health problems caused or aggravated by secondhand smoke, including heart disease, lung cancer and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

What you can do: Quit smoking, and urge your loved ones to do the same. Short of that, don't allow smoking indoors or in areas where others may be exposed.

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2. Lead

Lead is one of the most common deadly metals found in the industry and is a leading cause of workplace illness. It is also a major potential public health risk. In general populations, lead may be present in hazardous concentrations in food, water and air. Sources include paint, urban dust and folk remedies. Lead poisoning is the leading environmentally – induced illness in children. At greatest risk are children under age six because they are undergoing rapid neurological and physical development.

What you can do: The most effective way to protect from lead poisoning is to minimize your exposure through engineering controls, good work practices and training, and the use of personal protective clothing and equipment, including respirators, where required. Some fundamental and easily-implemented work practices are good housekeeping, appropriate personal hygiene practices, periodic inspection and maintenance of process and control equipment and having procedures and the supervision to ensure they are followed.

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3. Pesticides

The pesticides we use to control insects can be significant health hazards. Exposure to certain pesticides is associated with health problems ranging from skin rashes to nervous system disorders and cancer. Children are at the greatest risk of harm because of their hand-to-mouth habits and still-developing nervous systems; also, the places they play are often the areas most-likely treated with pesticides.

What you can do: You can prevent pest problems by keeping your home and work areas clean and well maintained. Only use pesticides when necessary. Read labels carefully and follow all the instructions. Avoid pesticides containing organophosphates, which include acephate, dichlorvos, dimethoate, disulfoton, malathion, naled, phosmet, tetrachlorvinphos and trichlorfon.

Fe

4. Formaldehyde

Formaldehyde is not limited to high school science labs. It is more common in your surroundings than you might think. Formaldehyde is used in fertilizers, glues, plywood, fiberboard, particleboard and certain types of insulation, as well as in some disinfectants, antibacterial soaps and even beauty products. Its vapors can irritate the eyes, nose, throat and skin, and also cause asthma attacks in sensitive people. Home exposure to formaldehyde has been linked to respiratory allergies in children.

What you can do: If you are remodeling, use exterior – rather than interior – grade plywood. The formaldehyde in exterior grade is more stable and less likely to break down and get into the air. Also, when you buy wood furniture or fixtures that use particleboard – many do, even if you can't see it – make sure it is laminated or otherwise coated. If you have products or construction in your area that could release formaldehyde vapors, make sure you have good ventilation.

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5. Air fresheners

Over the past few years, air fresheners have become a staple in many homes and offices, marketed with promises of a clean, healthy and sweet-smelling indoor atmosphere. The labels do not mention, however, that many of these products also release potentially hazardous chemicals. A recent investigation found hormone-disrupting chemicals known as phthalates in air fresheners, including some marketed as “all-natural” and “unscented.” None of these products listed phthalates on their labels. Phthalates are known to interfere with hormone and testosterone production. Children and fetuses are particularly vulnerable to these toxins.

What you can do: Consumers should be wary of all air fresheners, even those that claim to be “all-natural.” Experts suggest that more comprehensive, in-depth testing of air fresheners is warranted. Air fresheners are ubiquitous outside the home, in office spaces, retail outlets and public restrooms. Air fresheners are not regulated by the government, and companies are not required to list ingredients on their labels.

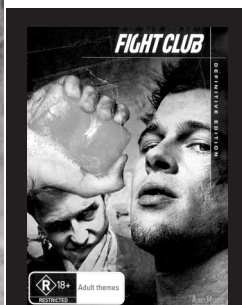
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CFP Photo





Scene



1

: Laundromat = night

(Marla walks with authority up to an unattended dryer. She takes out some clothes, then picks out the jeans, pants and shirts.)

Marla: I'll take the parasites.

Jack: You can't have both parasites. You can take the blood parasites.

Marla: I want the brain parasites.

Jack: Okay. I'll take the blood parasites and the organic brain dementia ⁽¹⁾.

Marla: I want that.

Jack: You can't have the whole brain!

Marla: So far, you have four and I only have two!

Jack: Then, take the blood parasites. They're yours. Now we each have three.

(Marla gathers the chosen garments and heads out past Jack.)

Scene 2: Lou's tavern

Jack and Tyler sit in the back, with a pitcher of beer.

Jack: You buy furniture. You tell yourself: this is the last sofa I'll ever need. No matter what else happens, I've got the sofa issue handled. Then, the right set of dishes. The right dinette ⁽²⁾.

Tyler: This is how we fill up our lives.

(Tyler lights a cigarette. Tyler offers a cigarette. Jack declines.)

Tyler: Could be worse. A woman could cut off your penis while you're asleep and toss it out ⁽³⁾ the window of a moving car.

Jack: There's always that.

Tyler: This time maybe get a widescreen TV. You'll be occupied for weeks.

Jack: Well, I have to file a claim ...

Tyler: The things you own, they end up owning you.

Jack: Thank you.

Tyler: You're welcome. But, I want you to do me one favor.

Jack: What's that?

Tyler: I want you to hit me as hard as you can.

Jack: What?

Tyler: I want you to hit me as hard as you can.

(Freeze picture.)

Scene 3: Curbside

(Jack and Tyler sit on the curb, watching sparse headlights on the nearby freeway.)

Tyler: If you could fight anyone ... one on one, whoever you wanted, who would you fight?

Jack: Anyone?

Tyler: Anyone.

(Jack thinks.)

Jack: My boss, probably. (pause) Who would you fight?

Tyler: My dad. No question.

(A long pause as Jack studies Tyler's face.)

Jack: Oh, yeah. (nodding) I didn't know my dad. Well, I knew him, till I was six. He went and married another woman, had more kids. Every six years or so he'd do it again - new city, new family.

Tyler: He was setting up franchises ⁽⁴⁾. My father never went to college, so it was really important that I go.

Jack: I know that.

Tyler: After I graduated, I called him long distance and asked, "Now what?" He said, "Get a job." When I turned 25, I called him and asked, "Now what?" He said, "I don't know. Get married."

Jack: Same here.

Tyler: A generation of men raised by women. I'm wondering if another woman is the answer we really need.

(Another pause, Jack feels his bleeding lip, smiles.)

Jack: We should do this again sometime.

(Tyler cracks a smile, gives a sidelong glance to Jack.)

Fight Club

Synopsis

Fight Club presents the vast emptiness of modern existence in a slick and ironically consumer-oriented fashion.

The narrator (Edward Norton), a nameless automobile company employee who is addicted to self-help groups, is turned upside down when he meets a sado-masochistic anarchist who is secretly plotting to overthrow civilization. As their friendship grows, they become increasingly involved in a secret society of "fight clubs," where men act out their aggressions and violently beat one another to a pulp.

In the meantime, the narrator falls in love with a woman who is also addicted to self-help groups, but he is unable to act on his desire for her.



Scene 4: Top-level parking area



(Jack enters, running toward the bomb, frantic.)

Tyler: Could be worse ...

(Jack looks, Tyler's seated with his back against one post.)

Tyler: You could be standing under 37 stories of steel and concrete with 150 gallons of nitroglycerin ⁽⁵⁾ strapped to the support. Oh, maybe it couldn't be ...

Jack: (points at bomb) You ... you can't be serious about this.

What a ridiculous thing to say.

Jack: I can't let you ...

Tyler: ... go through with this? What are you going to do?

Jack: I'm going to ...

Tyler: ... stop me?

Jack: I'm not going ...

Tyler: ... to let this happen!

Jack: Stop finishing...

Tyler: ... your sentences! They're our sentences. Get your mind around that.

(Tyler gets up and walks to

Movie of the Week

By Huang Daohen

This is a rare film that challenges the viewer to come up with his own interpretations. The film is violent, but it is not gratuitous violence, and any reviewer who claims that the film is promoting violence has missed the entire point of the film.

As a black comedy, it is sure to provoke much conversation. It is definitely a film to see with friends.



Jack.)

Tyler: What are you doing running through the streets in your underpants? We both use that body.

Jack: Since when is Project Mayhem ⁽⁶⁾ about murder?

Tyler: The buildings were evacuated thirty minutes ago. Everything's proceeding exactly as planned.

Jack: You don't know that. There could still be people inside.

Tyler: Maybe. Maybe a couple of guys with shaved heads couldn't synchronize ⁽⁷⁾ their watches. Good riddance ⁽⁸⁾.

(Tyler walks away and strides towards the bomb. Jack trains the gun...)

Jack: Please.

Tyler: I did that for you. As a gesture. Now, how fast can you run? There are ten other bombs, in ten other buildings in the immediate area. If you're going to get them all, you better get cracking.

(Jack's stunned. Tyler walks across the parking garage, past Jack, heading for the stairs. Jack aims the gun at Tyler's back and fires.)

Vocabulary:

1. **brain dementia:** madness or insanity; mental deterioration of organic or functional origin

2. **dinette:** a small space or alcove, often in or near the kitchen

3. **toss out:** throw or cast away

4. **franchise:** a privilege or right officially granted a person or a group by a government

5. **nitroglycerin:** a heavy yellow poisonous oily explosive liquid

6. **mayhem:** random or deliberate violence or damage

7. **synchronize:** to occur at the same time

8. **good riddance:** a welcome relief or deliverance from something

(By Huang Daohen)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

An Mc Accident at McDonald's

By Huang Daohen

A child always seems naughty, especially when that child is a three-year-old boy starting potty training. My little nephew is typical and has a lot of problems with potty training.

I visited my elder sister last National Day vacation to take care of her two young children, one a three-year-old boy and the other a seven-month-old girl.

The little boy was so infamous for being naughty that my sister warned me to keep an eye on him constantly regarding road safety and his potty problems as well.

One day, we stopped at a McDonald's restaurant near the apartment for a quick lunch and found it packed with a full dining room.

While enjoying my taco, I noticed my little nephew Tim was not in his seat. I looked around but failed to find him. Finally, he turned up depressed in his dirty coat.

I realized at first sight that he might have tumbled while playing outside, so I asked him and he said "No!"

I kept thinking, oh hell, was he

beaten up by other kids or run over by a bicycle or a vehicle? Then I asked, "Timmy, are you sure you did not have an accident?"

He jumped up, yanked down his pants, bent over and spread his cheeks and yelled, "See, Uncle, I was just farting!" Within earshot, 100 people nearly choked on their tacos while he calmly pulled up his pants and sat down to eat his food as if nothing had happened.

I was mortified! Then I realized that I had mistaken the accident as a potty thing and that's what was bothering him.

Some kind elderly people made me feel a lot better when they came over and thanked me for the best laugh they ever had. Another gentleman stopped us at the door as we were leaving, bent over to my elder nephew and said, "Don't worry son, my wife accuses me of the same thing all the time! I've just never had the nerve to make the point like you did."

It is true that Chinese people may take it for granted that an accident is referring to an unpleasant event, especially in a vehicle, but they never challenge a kid on a potty accident.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida**1. A concept of eco-friendly**

The error is obvious here. The word "eco-friendly" is an adjective, so it should be either "A concept of eco-friendliness," or "an eco-friendly concept." When we are writing English, we must be constantly aware of the function of each word.

2. It is stocked floor to ceiling with more stuff**Native Speaker: Joe Edwards****1. A concept of eco-friendly**

The above sentence is certainly not grammar-friendly. Treating "eco-friendly" as a noun makes us frown. It is definitely an adjective. It would be better to say, "A concept of eco-friendliness" or "an eco-friendly concept." Perfect. Now, let us go out and hug a tree.

2. It is stocked floor to ceiling with more stuff

The term, "floor to ceiling" is an adverbial phrase, but not complete in the example sentence due to a prepositional shortage in the form of, "of." Use the

Here, the phrase "floor to ceiling" serves as an adverbial phrase. So it should be, "from the floor to the ceiling," or "from floor to ceiling." The preposition "from" is necessary to head this adverbial phrase.

3. Ambulances were at ready.

The word "ready" is an adjective. It is enough simply to say, "Ambulances are ready," instead of, "at ready."

word, "of" at the beginning of the phrase and your grammar marks will soar from the floor to the ceiling. A couple of wisely-placed articles would not hurt either. The sentence should read, "It is stocked from the floor to the ceiling." "From floor to ceiling" is also acceptable.

3. Ambulances were at ready

Why use four words when three will do the job very well and be grammatically correct. "Ready" is an adjective and should be used accordingly. The sentence should read, "Ambulances were ready."



CFP Photo

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to

gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

**Sexy time in CenturyMart**

By Derrick Sobodash

It doesn't take the fumbling, clueless, Kazakh journalist alter ego of British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen to create a fantastic catch phrase like "sexy time," but if CenturyMart is any indicator, it does take him to put the words in the right order.

Whether the translator's aim was to emulate last year's cultural icon or not is anyone's guess, but he seems to have missed the mark with "A Time Sex Thing."

It is not hard to see the pitfalls that lead the hapless translator armed with PowerWord to this error. The Chinese *yici* could feasibly be rendered as "a time," in the sense of one time; *xing* could most certainly be translated as "sex"; and a *yongpin* is most definitely a thing – then again, so is everything.

Of course, to translate it that way would require breaking things in the wrong place. Anyone expecting to find condoms in this aisle would be most disappointed. The sign is really intended to be *yicixing*, or one-time use articles. This is where to find disposable plates, cups and eating utensils.

While for the Borat character, disposable cups and condoms may be practically the same thing, the surgeon general would likely disagree.

This aisle could be adequately labeled as "Disposable Goods" or "Disposables," if the latter keeps with theme of the store.

Friday, January 4

**Exhibition
Obliteration**

Where: 89 Promenade Des Arts Gallery, Room 1010, Building D, North Tower, Nanbao International Mansion, A 3 Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang
When: Wed-Sun 3 pm - 9 pm, until January 30

Admission: Free
Tel: 8599 9974

**Qin Gallery's New Year Contemporary Art Show**

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huaweili 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am - 6 pm, until January 31
Admission: Free

Tel: 8779 0461, 8779 0458

Retrospective Exhibition

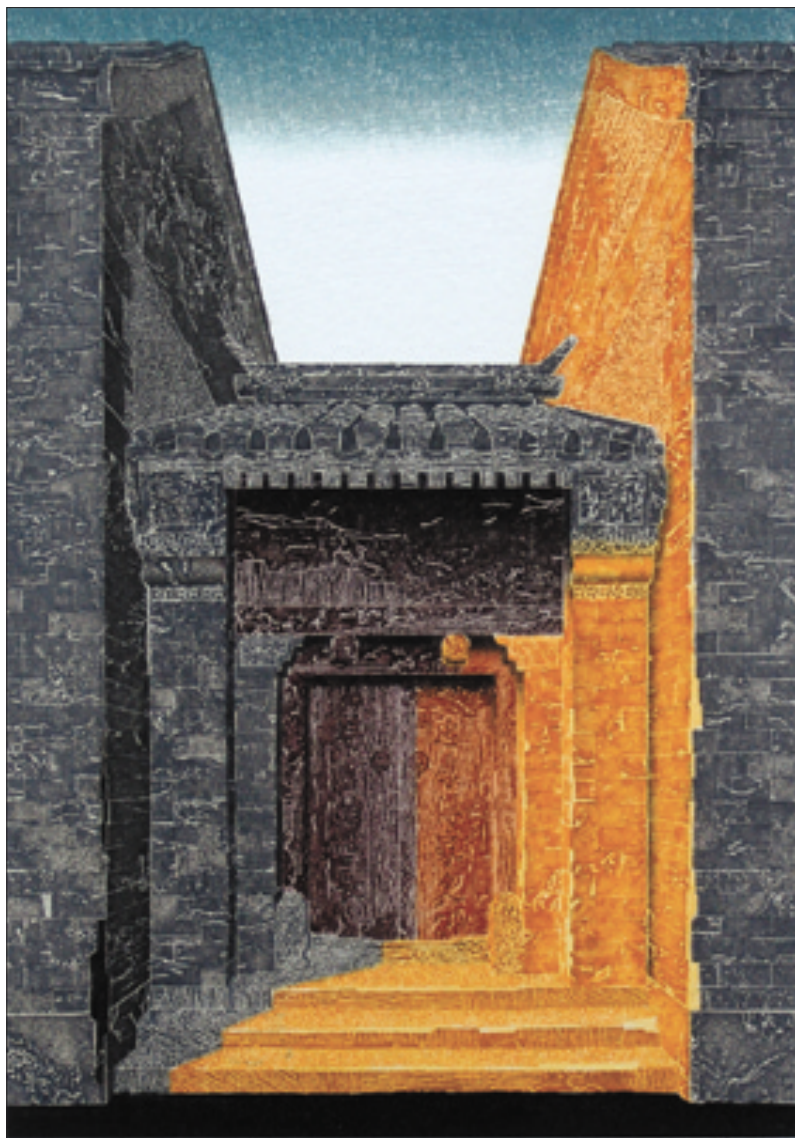
Where: Creation Space, 22-23 Guanyintang Art Avenue, Wangsiying, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10 am - 7 pm, until January 27
Admission: Free

Tel: 6737 0977

Attitude

This exhibition tries to show the artists' different points of view about life.

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou
When: Daily 8 am - midnight, until January 30
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6959 8343



Saturday, January 5

**Exhibition
Deep Breathe**

Where: Soka Contemporary Space, B103 Sky & Sea Business Plaza, 107 Dongsì Bei Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Daily 10 am - 9 pm, until February 7

Admission: Free

Tel: 8401 2377, 8401 5810

**Mirror Image of Diversity-
Group Exhibition of Contemporary Art**

The exhibition features Jiao Yingqi, Wang Qingsong, Tong Dazhuang, Xiao Hong, Xu Yihui and Liu Xiaocheng

Where: Tokyo Gallery + BTAP, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10:30 am - 5:30 pm, until January 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3245

**Print Painting Sculpture -
Group Exhibition**

The exhibition features Fang Lijun, Ji Dachun, Park Younggeun, Suck Chuljoo, Taniyama Kyoko, Yayoi Kusama, Youn Hyangran and Lim Youngsun

Where: Keumsan Gallery, B0024 International Art Zone, Huantienei, Dashanzi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am - 6 pm,

until January 27
Admission: Free
Tel: 6436 6176

Movie**Le Coeur des Hommes**

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 5 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Sunday, January 6

**Exhibition
Cosmetics - Yu Hang Solo
Exhibition**

Where: Tang Sheng Art Salon, 3818 Warehouse, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun, 10 am - 6:30 pm, until January 26

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9498

**Dark Lens - Huang Lin
Solo Exhibition**

Where: Gallery Beijing Space, 3818 warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until December 15

Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9304

Yin Hui Solo Exhibition

Where: Fafa Gallery, 4

Yuyang Lu, Houshayu, Shunyi
When: 10:30 am - 8 pm, until February 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 8430 2587

Movie**Les Bronzés**

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 3 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in February

Concert**FIYTA Ning Feng Solo
Violin Concert**

Ning Feng, the most recent winner of the Paganini International Violin Competition in Genoa, is holding a solo concert where he will combine Western and Chinese classical melodies on Valentine's Day.

Who: Ning Feng

Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

February 14

Tel: 5905 9082

Admission: 80-880 yuan

New Year Concert

Who: Symphony Orchestra of Russia

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

February 7

Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Full House of Love

Who: China Drama and Dance Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm,

February 14

Admission: 80-999 yuan

Spring Festival Concert

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhuaajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

February 10

Admission: 100-1,280 yuan

Dance**Sleeping Beauty**

Who: Russian Ballet Troupe

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

February 7

Admission: 50-800 yuan

Nutcracker

Who: Russian Ballet Troupe

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

February 3

Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Swan

Who: English National Ballet

Where: Century Theatre, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

January 30-February 3

Admission: 180-1,680 yuan

Notre-Dame de Paris

Who: Kremlin Palace Ballet Theater

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

February 12-14

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Drama**Red and Black**

Who: Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

February 19-22

Admission: 100-1,280 yuan

(By Li Jing)